



CommuniQUÉ

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HEADQUARTERS *News*

ATTORNEY GENERAL HONORS CHIEF DE LA VIÑA, MCCULLOUGH AT ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

“As we seek to do
what the Attorney
General says,
inspire to do
something greater
than ourselves,
beyond ourselves,
something that
will contribute to
justice.”

—Associate Attorney
General Stephens

TWO INS employees received Attorney General's awards and praise during the Attorney General's 50th Annual Awards Ceremony July 17—one of them, Border Patrol Chief Gustavo De La Viña, earned the Department of Justice's highest honor for the second time.

“Chief De La Viña led the design and implementation of a strategy that emphasizes deterrence of illegal immigration by concentrating resources in major corridors of illegal immigration,” Commissioner James W. Ziglar said. “This fundamental change has brought about dramatic improvements in the quality of life for persons living on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.”

De La Viña received the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service, and Charles M. McCullough, acting director of the California Service Center in Laguna Niguel, received the Attorney General's Award for “Equal Employment Opportunity” (EEO). In July 1994, De La Viña received the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for “Exceptional Leadership.”

“Our service to our country is a lesson to those around us. In everything we do, we teach, and when we serve, we teach something about those things we value,” Attorney General John Ashcroft said before presenting

the awards. “...Those things we recognize and these things we award are the kinds of things that we lift up, not just to the Department of Justice, not just to the culture around us, and not just to America, but to the world because we believe in the values that are reflected and the energies directed toward achievement of these important outcomes.”

De La Viña and McCullough were among 187 Department of Justice employees and individuals from outside the department recognized for extraordinary accomplishments at the ceremony at Constitutional Hall in Washington, D.C. Awards were presented in 27 categories, which drew more than 540 nominations.

As their names were called, recipients walked across the stage to receive an award and personal congratulations from the Attorney General. Heads of several federal agencies and bureaus were seated on stage and were on hand to congratulate and make awards to their employees along with the Attorney General.

These included the Commissioner who congratulated De La Viña and McCullough, and former Acting Commissioner Kevin Rooney, who has returned to his job as director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review. Rooney presented the Attorney General's Award for Excellence in Administrative Support.

Another ceremony highlight was the Border Patrol Honor Guard, accompanied by the Border Patrol bagpipers, posting the colors at the beginning and retiring them at the end.

The ceremony's program cited the following for De La Viña and McCullough:

- “Chief Gustavo De La Viña is honored for providing vision, foresight, and leadership



Agent Daniel Sprick of the Yuma Station presents arms while Agent Samuel Briggs II of the Blythe Station presents the colors.

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Border Patrol Chief Gustavo De La Viña accepts his award from Attorney General John Ashcroft as Commissioner James W. Ziglar (left) and Associate Attorney General Jay Stephens (at the podium) look on.

for the transition of our border enforcement strategy from reliance upon interdiction to a strategy that incorporates several additional methods. These tactics include the use of increased manpower, technology, and prevention through deterrence. His steadfast application of the strategy was a significant factor in the 25 percent reduction in U.S. Border Patrol apprehensions. The new strategy is more cost effective in the long run because many more entries are prevented than the number of illegal entrants which could be apprehended, reducing both the economic and social costs of an out-of-control border.”

- “Charles M. McCullough is honored for his exemplary and sustained support for the Equal Employment Opportunity program at the Administrative Center Laguna. Mr. McCullough’s outstanding leadership not only improved the quality of the EEO program, but also enhanced the quality of service provided to customers in the Western Region and across the Immigration and Naturalization Service. He is known as being a fair and compassionate manager who is results-oriented, especially in the EEO arena. By being equitable in all of his management decisions, by providing sufficient resources to the EEO program, and by being personally involved, Mr. McCullough epitomizes the essence of professional management.”

Associate Attorney General Jay Stephens summed up the ceremony’s themes in his closing: “As we seek to do what the Attorney General says, inspire to do something greater than ourselves, beyond ourselves, something that will contribute to justice.”

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The INS *Communiqué* is published by INS Headquarters under a contract with *Casals & Associates Inc.* of Alexandria, Va. The publication is committed to informing the employees of the Immigration and Naturalization Service about official and unofficial activities. Readers are encouraged to submit articles, photographs, and letters to the editor. Write to *Communiqué* c/o Casals & Associates / 1199 North Fairfax Street, Third Floor / Alexandria, VA 22314 / attention: INS *Communiqué* Editor. Submissions in electronic format may be sent to << ins@casals.com >>.

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INS NEWS FROM *the Field*

EL PASO DISTRICT WORKS WITH CITY TO PREVENT HEAT STROKE AT PASO DEL NORTE POINT OF ENTRY

SUMMERS in West Texas are very hot, as anybody standing in line to enter the United States at the Paso Del Norte Port of Entry in El Paso can attest. Now, thanks to the cooperative efforts of the INS and the City of El Paso the more than 20,000 pedestrians who pass through the international port of entry every day are getting some much needed relief from temperatures that frequently top 90 degrees.

A heat wave in June sent thermometers into triple digits for 15 consecutive days. That's when El Paso District Director Luis Garcia reached out to El Paso Mayor Raymond Caballero to express his concerns for the health and safety of the traveling public, especially the elderly, frail, sick, and very young. As a result, canopies, mist sprayers, and a table with water jugs and cups were set up to provide relief from the heat.

"Although the average pedestrian waiting time at Paso Del Norte is only 10 to 15 minutes, the waiting period can increase to as much as 45 minutes during peak periods, and up to an hour on weekends," said Leticia Zamarripa, INS public affairs officer with the El Paso District. "Pedestrian crossing peaks early in the morning, again at noon, and then around 3:30 p.m., right at the hottest part of the day."

While the average temperature in El Paso is usually in the 80s in the summer, the concrete and



The city started giving out water to the 20,000 people passing through the checkpoint every day.

asphalt surrounding the bridge and port of entry often cause the temperature in the immediate area to increase as much as 10 degrees, further endangering those susceptible to heat stroke and heat exhaustion.

Following the conversations between Garcia and Caballero, the INS purchased mist sprayers in June, and the city installed them free of charge along the covered walkway leading to the Paso Del Norte pedestrian inspection area. The city's Streets Department completed the installation just in time for the Fourth of July holiday weekend. The city also started giving out drinking water at the walkway entrance, offering a bit of cool refreshment for pedestrians.

The mist sprayers are expected to lower the temperature in the walkway area by at least five degrees. The city also installed temporary nylon mesh tarps over the U.S. side of the bridge approaching the port of entry. The tarps provide much-needed shade for pedestrians. The city has hired a consultant to design a permanent canopy to replace the temporary tarps.

As an added bonus, and at no cost to the federal government, city employees painted the pillars and concrete barriers in the walkway teal and dogwood, transforming a once drab and dirty area into a cooler, colorful oasis.

In addition to supporting the installation of the mist sprayers and tarps, Mayor Caballero is working with Mexican authorities and the area's business community to identify and implement other measures to make crossing the border safer and more comfortable for international visitors.

"Border crossers contribute to the economies of both the U.S. and Mexico," Garcia said. "It is important that the communities on both sides of the border work together to reduce the risk of heat-related health problems for pedestrians."



Mist sprayers lower the temperatures at the Paso Del Norte Port of Entry.

LAREDO SECTOR BORDER PATROL AGENTS RESCUE FLOOD VICTIMS IN SOUTH TEXAS

DOZENS of residents of South Texas were saved from possible drowning recently as Laredo Sector Border Patrol agents using Jet Skis, helicopters, and boats rescued them from floodwaters and transported them to safe ground.

"We are part of the community. We know that in these times of bad weather we're not going to have normal duties," Assistant Chief Patrol Agent George A. Gunnoe said. "It's all part of the Border Safety Initiative [BSI], to not only make it safer for the migrants, but for the local community."

Since 1998 when the BSI was started to reduce injuries and prevent deaths along the Southwest Border, Laredo Sector agents have embraced the concept of border safety and have made it a part of their everyday duties.

Laredo Sector has 14 agents who are Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) deployed throughout the area in Border Patrol vehicles outfitted as ambulances. These agents were licensed vocational nurses, registered nurses, combat lifesavers, and medics prior to joining the Border Patrol. Additionally, more than 40 agents are trained in swift-water rescue and certified in Jet Ski operations by the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife.

In July, the agents' special skills proved life-saving for Cotulla's 3,500 residents as heavy rains pelted South Texas causing many of the region's rivers and creeks to surge well past flood stage.

On July 1, in a just a few minutes time, Mustang Creek was transformed from a dry bed to a gushing 4- to 6-foot stream of rising floodwaters. When agents from the Cotulla Station heard radio traffic from the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office about floodwaters from the creek trapping Cotulla residents in vehicles and mobile homes, they responded immediately.

"I said just go ahead and make yourself available to the local community," Gunnoe said. "I decided to send up the Jet Skis just in case."

The Jet Skis—equipment unique to the Laredo Sector, but critical to saving lives in the region's shallow, rocky riverbeds—proved to be an invaluable

flood-rescue vehicle along, with the sector's helicopters and boats.

All Cotulla day shift agents and signcutters assisted in evacuating residents from the area. Over the next few days, agents from the Laredo North and Zapata Stations were called in both as a precautionary measure and to assist with further rescues as heavy rains pelted South Texas and flooding continued.

Cotulla Patrol Agent in Charge Vittorio A. Ramirez said four incidents stick out in his mind where agents "really came through as far as valor."

In one incident Supervisory Patrol Agent Alexander D. Hernandez and Senior Patrol Agents

Manuel Saucedo and Vidal Holland Jr. responded to a call about an elderly man and a young girl stuck on the roof of a pickup truck that had gone off the road and into a ditch overflowing with swift waters. With the floodwaters rising past six feet, the three attempted a perilous rescue along with the Cotulla Volunteer Fire Department and a Texas game warden. With the rescue attempt proving to



Supervisor Border Patrol Agent Elizabeth Rosales (left) and Border Patrol Agent J. Carlos Barbarena with their jet skis.

be hazardous, Hernandez called for a Service helicopter. Laredo Sector Pilots Dennis Michelin and Oswaldo Trujillo arrived and using a rope airlifted the two to safety. Border Patrol EMT personnel then treated the man and the girl for hypothermia.

"They would not have made it if the agents and helicopter had not been there. They definitely were at the right place at the right time," Ramirez said, noting the Border Patrol is the biggest law enforcement presence in a rural three-county area, and the small, local fire departments and sheriff's offices simply do not have the staffing necessary to handle a flood emergency of that magnitude.

In another incident, Agents Mark Sullivan and Aynee Garcia of Laredo North rescued several children who had been playing in calm, shallow floodwaters that suddenly became turbulent. The children had climbed into the bed of a pick-up truck but were unable to swim to land because of the fast currents. With the guidance of the helicopters flying overhead, the agents were able to sweep the

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HEADQUARTERS *News*

ASHCROFT THANKS INS FOR HARD WORK DURING ALL-INCLUSIVE HEADQUARTERS VISIT

ATTORNEY General John Ashcroft and Commissioner James W. Ziglar took the time to individually thank hundreds of INS staff at Headquarters July 1 for their hard work during a stormy time.

"I'd rather be looking at churning seas if I was moving in the right direction," Ashcroft told the executive staff near the end of the visit, noting he was pleased the INS was "weathering a storm" in pursuit of its mission.

Earlier in the Headquarters visit, the mere mention of Ashcroft's name sent employees quickly filing out of their offices and into the hallway as word spread that the Attorney General and Commissioner had arrived on their floor.

"Thank you for your hard work," the Attorney General repeatedly said as he shook hands with the hundreds of staff lining the hallways. Moving through the crowds at the Attorney General's side, the Commissioner also shook hands and thanked employees for their hard work.

For some, it was the first opportunity to meet the Attorney General, the official who runs the Department of Justice, the INS' parent organization. For many, it was their second opportunity; Ashcroft

made a similar visit to Headquarters in April 2001, a month after he took office.

During both visits, several employees took the opportunity to exchange a few words with the Attorney General. For most, a handshake and smile in response to the thanks sufficed, as Ashcroft and

Ziglar circumnavigated the full length of the hallways that encircle each of the building's seven floors in about an hour.

Anthony Douglas, Headquarters mailroom contract supervisor, was one of the employees meeting the Attorney General for the first time.

"It was a pleasure meeting the Attorney General," he said. "It was

pretty nice of him to take the time to meet his employees of the INS."

At the end of the visit, Ashcroft met with the executive staff to thank them for their hard work and acknowledge them for providing critical services. He told them he holds dear the poem by Emma Lazarus inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore, Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

He said the poem does not read "give me your tired, your poor, your Merit Scholars, and people who went to Harvard" because Lazarus understood what freedom provides people.

"It can take any group and make world leaders out of them," Ashcroft said. "You all know you have a special role to play in that."

Noting that he did not think there was any other country with as "wide array of folks," he said "it's



Employees lined up along the hallways to shake hands with the Attorney General and Commissioner.



Commissioner James W. Ziglar shakes hands and thanks employees along side Attorney General John Ashcroft (right).

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AG VISIT

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really silly to think we're better than anyone else...We are other people."

The Attorney General also answered a few questions—ranging from what he does in his spare time to his predictions on the configuration of the Department of Homeland Security. The answer to what he does in his spare time was building things on his farm and playing the piano, while the answer to the second line of questioning he said he could not answer with specific details.

Ashcroft said what he was certain about was that Congress will pass legislation creating the new department and that the INS will be part of it and no longer part of the Department of Justice.

"I will miss the INS and the people I have worked with," he said.



Border Patrol Chief Gustavo De La Viña (left) greets Attorney General John Ashcroft and Commissioner James W. Ziglar (middle).



The Attorney General and Commissioner thank members of the Border Patrol for their hard work.

PRESIDENT OFFERS THANKS FOR GOING THE LIMIT AFTER SEPT. 11

PRESIDENT Bush thanked public servants involved in homeland security for working hard following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and for their willingness to go the limit, and then some more, for the sake of their fellow citizens.

"I'm here to thank each one of you for your dedication to the country we all love. You worked hard prior to September the 11th; you're working really hard now," the President said. "And the American people appreciate it a lot, and so do I."

More than 3,000 government workers came to Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., July 10 to hear the President commend them and their colleagues for their sacrifice and dedication.

"What's important for the American people to know is that our public servants are working longer hours and working harder and working smarter to defend the American people," he said.

He added that public service in is not just another job but an important act of citizenship.

"It is a way to fulfill our obligation to those who have gone before us, to those who will follow us, and to those who have sacrificed and died for us," he said. "That's how I view your job and my job."

With many Cabinet secretaries and agency directors in the audience, Bush called on the government workers to support his plans for a new Cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security.

"We've got to do everything we can to ensure the American people that our government and the fine folks who work on behalf of the taxpayers work in a smart way, a dedicated way," Bush said.

He said the new department will unify federal efforts, avoid administrative overlap and duplication, and foster a new culture of cooperation in the nation's capital.

The first of the four department tasks he mentioned was controlling U.S. borders to prevent terrorists and weapons from entering the country.

"We need to know who's coming in, why they're coming in, and if they're leaving when they're supposed to," Bush said. "And if they're not leaving, we need to know why."

The other three were working with state and local authorities quickly and effectively during emergencies; bringing the best scientists together to detect biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons and to develop related drugs and treatments; and merging under one roof the capability to identify and assess threats to the homeland.

"We're doing what we're doing because you all understand that a full life is one that serves something greater than yourself, otherwise you wouldn't have signed on for government service in the first place," he said.

INTERNET-BASED SYSTEM FOR TRACKING STUDENTS GOES ONLINE ON SCHEDULE

A computerized system allowing the exchange of information about foreign students, exchange visitors, and their dependents via the Internet is up and running on schedule. Voluntary participation of INS-approved schools in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) began July 1.

"The beginning of this enrollment period brings us one step closer to implementing SEVIS," INS Commissioner James W. Ziglar said. "SEVIS promises to revolutionize the way information about foreign students is shared between schools and INS."

The new system ultimately will link schools and colleges with the INS and port authorities,

Department of Justice, and U.S. consulates overseas—providing a more immediate means of reporting throughout a foreign student's or exchange visitor's stay in the United States.

While voluntary participation of INS-approved schools began July 1, participation will become mandatory for all schools and colleges by January 30, 2003.

Under the system's regulations, schools will have to notify the INS via the Internet if a student fails to take the required course load or drops out, fails to show up, or is disciplined for criminal behavior. Schools also will be required to report the status of each student after each term and any other changes, such as in name or address.

'OLD GLORY' RISES OVER NEW CITIZENS AT BALTIMORE'S HISTORIC FORT MCHENRY

BENEATH overcast and sultry skies, the Baltimore District hosted an evening naturalization ceremony July 8 on the grounds of Fort McHenry National Monument at the entrance to Baltimore harbor.

On the lawn next to the fort celebrated in the words of "The Star-Spangled Banner," 51 new citizens took the Oath of Allegiance to their adopted country. They received naturalization certificates from INS Acting Deputy Commissioner Mike Becraft, who was also the ceremony's keynote speaker.

Seeing the American flag "by the dawn's early light" inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner" after he witnessed a nighttime British naval bombardment of Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. The national anthem was sung at the ceremony by Sgt. Major Lance Sweigart, (U.S. Army, ret.), as a reproduction of the massive 18-star flag was again raised over the fort.



Acting Deputy Commissioner Mike Becraft congratulates one of 51 new U.S. citizens, while Baltimore District Director Louis Crocetti Jr., prepares to present a naturalization certificate.

"It is hard to imagine a more magnificent, or more appropriate, setting for a naturalization ceremony," the acting deputy commissioner told the audience of about 250 new citizens, their family members, and friends.

Naturalization ceremonies are a reminder that, "in a troubled world, the United States still stands as a beacon of hope and opportunity for all those 'yearning to breathe free,'" Becraft said. The new citizens taking the Oath of



Aminata Bangora, a native of Sierra Leone, takes the Oath of Allegiance to her adopted country. At left are Chun-Lan Chan and her son, Nga-Chon Chan, who emigrated from Hong Kong.

Allegiance provide "evidence that this beacon has never beamed brighter."

"Welcoming new citizens is one of the most important things we do as a nation," he said. "It invigorates our national spirit and reinforces the ideals and principles that are the foundation of our nation."

While Sept. 11 showed that "a few isolated individuals want to tear us down," naturalization ceremonies reassure us that millions of people around the world are eager to come here and build up America, he said. "That is why we must ensure that our nation

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THOUSANDS OF NEW CITIZENS SWEAR IN DURING PATRIOTIC JULY 4 CEREMONIES COAST TO COAST

DISPLAYING more than the usual Independence Day patriotism, love of freedom, and avowed willingness to defend the United States, several thousand people joined the ranks of U.S. citizens July 4 in citizenship ceremonies coast to coast.

"I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law ... I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God," many said with extra fervor because of another significant date—Sept. 11.

These patriotic new Americans chose to swear in as U.S. citizens on the nation's birthday, requesting the pomp and the symbolism of a July 4 ceremony during a critical time in the nation's history.

Some of these naturalization ceremonies were historic in flavor, such as the 40th annual Monticello Independence Day Celebration and Naturalization Ceremony at the mountaintop home of Thomas Jefferson, who drafted the Declaration of Independence. Others were more modern, such as Seattle's 18th Annual Fourth of July Naturalization Ceremony at the eclectic

Seattle Center House where senior citizens often swing dance and teenagers sometimes hip-hop.

No matter the setting, however, the Independence Day ceremonies were full of an overwhelming sense of patriotic pride—full of added meaning in light of Sept. 11. INS districts traditionally offer people who choose to be Americans the opportunity to take the Oath of Allegiance the same day the nation celebrates the gift of freedoms bestowed on all citizens—both native-born and naturalized.

In San Diego, District Director Adele Fasano urged 163 San Diego County immigrants from 31 countries at a patriotic Fourth of July naturalization ceremony at Cabrillo National Park to promote national unity.

"Preserving the American way of life is about strengthening our national unity in the same caring spirit and love for liberty as our forefathers," she said.

In Virginia, 82 people became U.S. citizens during the 40th Annual Monticello Independence Day Celebration and

HISTORIC MISSION TOWN GETS ENTHUSIASTIC OVER PATRIOTIC NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

By Sharon Rummery

THE sleepy, picturesque mission town of San Juan Bautista saw a buzz of activity during the weeks leading up to July 3 this year. This historic village, which you might recall as one of the settings for the Hitchcock movie "Vertigo," was Congressman Sam Farr's choice for this year's "Proud to be an American" naturalization ceremony.



Newly bought red, white, and blue bunting provide a festive flair at San Juan Bautista's "Proud to be an American" naturalization ceremony.

Farr, whose district includes a large section of the Central California coast, was the author of the Proud to be an American Act, which allots money each year to members of Congress who wish to sponsor a naturalization ceremony on or near the Fourth of July. Son of legendary California legislator Fred Farr, he hosts these sessions throughout his district, all of which falls under the auspices of the San Francisco District's San Jose sub-office. During the San Juan Bautista session, the INS and Farr got star treatment from the community.

Town leaders quickly mobilized a group they called their Naturalization Taskforce. They canvassed the community for donations, and by the time they were done, the whole town was decked out in newly bought red, white, and blue bunting. The

Mission Green, the location for the ceremony, was similarly decorated.

Best of all, the historic olive grove behind the mission was decked out with ribbons, balloons, and picnic tables bearing patriotic centerpieces. The grove served as the location for a post-ceremony barbecued chicken feast, courtesy of the townspeople.

For 90 minutes before the start of the ceremony, local groups and individual performers entertained the new citizens, presenting everything from a medley of patriotic songs and German

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New citizens feast on barbecued chicken, courtesy of the San Juan Bautista townspeople.

Naturalization Ceremony near Charlottesville. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Frank McCourt, who wrote "Angela's Ashes," asked the new citizens not take freedom for granted.

"After the attacks, we suddenly realized what we had," McCourt said as quoted by the Associated Press. "We began to think about being American in a way we never had before."

Also, in Virginia, 50 individuals from 41 different countries were sworn in Freedom Park, adjacent to the Freedom Forum in Arlington in a ceremony featuring representatives of the Freedom Forum, State Department, and the INS as well as the Armed Forces Color Guard.

In Seattle, more than 300 people from 65 countries were naturalized as U.S. citizens as part of the city's annual Fourth of July naturalization ceremony at the Seattle Center House, an indoor pavilion/food court. A Navy band feted the crowd with horns and drums, and legionnaires gave out tiny red, white and blue flags.

In Portsmouth, N.H., 116 people from 33 countries were sworn in at New Hampshire's oldest seacoast neighborhood, Strawberry Banke's Puddle Dock, during an Independence Day celebration featuring old-fashioned family fun, food, and games.

In Ohio, 23 people became U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony in the shadow of the 325-foot-tall Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, the U.S.'s third tallest memorial commemorating Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's victory over the British fleet during the War of 1812.

At Walt Disney's Epcot Center in Orlando, Fla., 500 immigrants from 89 countries participated in a naturalization ceremony featuring one of Disney World's biggest fireworks shows of the year and Disney characters in patriotic garb. Also in Florida, Gov. Jeb Bush swore in 450 immigrants from 86 countries at a naturalization ceremony in Hillsborough County near Tampa.

President Bush, meanwhile, asked a crowd of some 8,000 people in front of a courthouse in Ripley, W.Va., to remember the nation's creed that all are created equal and all are meant to be free.

"This creed of freedom and equality has lifted the lives of millions of Americans, of citizens by birth and citizens by choice. This creed draws our friends to us. It sets our enemies against us, and always inspires the best that is within us," the President said. "In this 226th year of our independence, we have seen that American patriotism is still a living faith. We love our country; only more when she's threatened."

INS NEWS FROM *the Field*

YUMA SECTOR USES VIRTUAL-REALITY LASERS TO ENHANCE SHOOTING SKILLS

PICTURE this scenario: a law enforcement officer attempts to serve a warrant on a known violent offender who becomes belligerent and pulls a knife on the officer. What is the officer's appropriate response? Draw her weapon? Fire? If she does, how accurate is her shooting?

Like all law enforcement officers, Border Patrol agents rely on their training and experience to help them handle potentially dangerous situations with a high degree of professionalism and in a manner that provides the greatest level of safety for everyone involved.

Thanks to the LaserShot firearms virtual-reality training system, agents in the Yuma Sector now have the opportunity to practice important critical thinking, decision-making, and muscle-memory skills in an educational setting.

The LaserShot system, developed and distributed by Laser Shot Simulations of Stafford, Texas, uses interactive computer simulations and lasers to place law enforcement officers in a wide variety of real-life situations. Lasers inserted into the barrel of the firearm allow the system to assess the accuracy of their shooting skills.

The system is portable and can be set up in a classroom. Law enforcement organizations can select from the multiple scenarios provided with the system or can create their own simulations—including recreations of actual events—using a digital video camera.

"Patrol Agents love using this system," said Tim York, supervisory Border Patrol agent and Yuma Sector senior firearms instructor. "It gives them a new way of seeing themselves, confirms what they are doing right, and offers an opportunity for immediate feedback on ways to improve both their firearms and decision-making skills."

Although the LaserShot system offers a variety of firearms training tools, the Yuma Sector uses the Judgmental Pistol Shooting



Agent Varion Espinoza with weapon in hand running through a judgmental pistol shooting scenario as Supervisory Patrol Agent Shaun Helt runs LaserShot with a laptop computer.

(JPS) tool almost exclusively. JPS features role-playing segments lasting up to 60 seconds in length that test an agent's use of voice commands and body motions, use of appropriate level of force, use of cover, deployment of his/her weapon, and shooting accuracy.

One of the major benefits of the system is that agents receive immediate feedback from the firearms instructor and then work one-on-one to improve their techniques.

"Simulation training will never replace practice at the firing range, but it does offer an excellent opportunity for agents to improve their draw speed and target acquisition skills. It also helps us teach our officers how to avoid the use of deadly force," York said.

Agents must qualify on a quarterly basis for all weapons for which they are authorized. In the Yuma Sector, Border Patrol agents are issued pistols, shotguns, and rifles. In addition to qualifying on the firing range, officers must also participate in

training sessions covering topics such as appropriate use of deadly force and proper judgement in do-not-shoot situations. Work with the LaserShot system supports the latter topic.

So far more than 175 Yuma Sector officers have been trained on the system, which has been in use for approximately eight months. The goal is to have all the sector's officers complete the training twice each year in addition to their usual firing range training.

York said Yuma Sector Chief Patrol Agent Michael Nicely plans to incorporate simulations of actual incidents on the system.

"It will allow other agents to see what the officers saw, how they reacted, and what the result was," York said. "This way if agents being trained make wrong decisions during these recreations of dangerous situations, nobody gets hurt, and they can go back, get critiqued, and do it right the next time—and out on the job."

BORDER PATROL BEGINS TESTING CUSTOM 'SEVERE OFF-ROAD VEHICLES' IN 2 SECTORS

THE Border Patrol's trucks and sport utility vehicles give new meaning to the word "driven." A vehicle may rack up to 200 miles per shift trekking remote, rough paths in climatic extremes, and oftentimes become inoperable after as little as six months of use.

"To be effective, our agents need to be able to get to rugged and remote areas," said El Centro Sector Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Randy Stickles. "Increasingly, we're finding commercially available sport utility vehicles don't hold up under these kinds of conditions."

Because its vehicles are driven so hard and so much, a new generation of Border Patrol "severe off-road vehicles," nicknamed "SORV" after the acronym, is being developed through a pilot program with private industry. The aim is to engineer a vehicle that is both safer and more cost effective for officers to operate. The first version of the vehicle in the El Centro Sector was unveiled July 31 at the sector's Public Information Office.

"This was a concerted effort by several sectors and Headquarters to get this program underway," Stickles said. "We're hoping this uniquely designed vehicle will greatly enhance and extend the shelf life of our vehicles as compared to our existing vehicles."

Under the pilot program, the Border Patrol submitted a list of specifications to three major manufacturers: General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler. These leading automakers engineered the SORV prototypes as part of a pilot program, deciding which

products, systems, and equipment to incorporate in the vehicles.

The prototypes will be deployed on the Southwest border on a one-year trial basis, at the end of which the Border Patrol will evaluate the results and decide what course to take.

The San Diego Sector also took delivery of a SORV prototype in July, and four additional southern border sectors are slated to receive test vehicles as well—Tucson, Yuma, El Paso, and Marfa. These sectors were chosen because they include large expanses of harsh terrain along or near the border. Ultimately, 18 of the specially built vehicles will be deployed under the pilot program.

Each of the SORVs being tested will be a hand-assembled prototype built atop a heavy-duty pick-up truck frame. The SORVs will incorporate a range of special features and technology including an advanced suspension system, load-leveling air bags, and heavy-duty axles and transmissions.

The pilot program is one of several Border Patrol efforts to identify a vehicle that will withstand prolonged off-road use in severe terrain. The patrol is also evaluating the Hummer, built by AM General, for Border Patrol use. That test is underway in the Yuma and El Centro Sectors.



El Centro is one of two sectors testing a new generation of Border Patrol severe off-road vehicle.

RESCUE

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children up on their Jet Skis and transport them to safety.

In a third incident, Ramirez and Senior Patrol Agent Jose L. Gonzalez dove in rapidly rising waters to rescue a husband, wife, and three children (including an infant) trapped in a mobile home. And in a fourth incident, Pilot Trujillo flew in to rescue a woman and child trapped on some high ground surrounded by turbulent waters that made the area inaccessible by boat.

Other Cotulla Station personnel assisting during the emergency—which resulted in millions of dollars of damage to local homes, roads, and crops—included Assistant Patrol Agent in Charge Rosa Nelly Hernandez; Supervisory Patrol Agent Jose L. Gonzalez; Senior Patrol Agent James P. Gonzales;

and Agents Juan Alvarado, James Whitfield, Domingo De Leon, Eric Benavides, Martin Rubio, Harold Reed, Jerrold Blanco, Steve Hykel, Jeff Kanamu, and Gustavo Carmona. Agents from the Laredo North Station included Supervisory Patrol Agent William Ferrone and Agents Francisco Villarreal and Karl Knudson.

Gunnore emphasized the recent rescues were only a small part of his sector's success in saving lives. He said the BSI agents have contributed to the sector's 60-percent reduction in migrant deaths and a 75-percent reduction in migrant deaths by drowning.

"We're extremely pleased that something is working, but we won't be happy until it gets to zero," Gunnore said. "The only number we care about is zero migrant deaths."

INS NEWS *of Note*

INSPIRES PROGRAM ADAPTED TO ADDRESS NEW INS CORE VALUES INITIATIVE 'PAIRS'

"Identifying these core values is, however, just the first step in the Core Values Initiative ... We cannot leave these words empty on the page; we must bring them to life through our actions. I am counting on you to embody these core values in your work and to encourage your co-workers to do the same."

—Commissioner James W. Ziglar

VALUES are not new to INS employees, Jimmie Jones, INSpires program manager, said. So when employees from around the country picked Professionalism, Accountability, Integrity, Respect, and Service (PAIRS) as the agency's new official core values, the existing values reinforcement program Jones manages became a natural tool to promote and implement them.



Cynthia Sanchez, Rick Hernandez, Marcos Reyna, Peter Brewster, and Adrian Gonzalez (left to right) discuss core values at a session in the San Antonio District as Julio Brea (standing) looks on.

"Thousands of INS employees live the request of the Commissioner that they bring core values 'to life' through their language, actions, and decisions on the job," Jones said. "The deliberate process of challenging all employees to bring the core values 'to life'—from words to actions—is a major focus of the INSpires program."

The five-year-old program uses interactive, proactive strategies to

reinforce personal and INS core values. Not a simple class to be taken once, INSpires is an ongoing series of small-group discussions that individual INS offices self-generate through local facilitators. Each session usually includes no more than eight participants representing the range of job classifications.

"The INSpires program engages small groups of employees to define core values, to consider what core values 'look' like when exhibited, and to discuss the dilemma situations that occur when core values are challenged," Jones said.

"Dilemma situations can occur directly to an individual in a solitary moment, or the individual could be a witness or bystander to such an incident," he continued. "Whether the individual is in contact with the public when it occurs, or whether interacting with a co-worker, there are numerous occasions when an employee may perceive a challenge to his or her values."

When the Office of Internal Audit initially started the program in 1997, it was called "Integrity and Ethical Decision-Making." The name was later changed to INSpires to focus on the issues of Professionalism, Integrity, Responsibility, Ethical decision making, and Self-image—issues which gave the training program its name. Because of the overlap with the agency's core values, announced in February, the program was immediately identified and adapted as a ready vehicle to promote PAIRS.

As in the past, the adapted INSpires program provides a decision-making process that enables employees to develop a process of critical thinking to analyze the complexities of a dilemma. Through this process, called the "DOC" method

(Dilemmas, Options, Consequences), participants learn a process of self-questioning that enables them to identify each problem or situation, the range of potential responses, and the long- and short-term consequences of those responses.

Maria R. Chavez, supervisory district adjudications officer in the El Paso District, said INSpires helps participants see the relationships between the decision-making process and the work they do as well as their personal lives.

"There is a direct relation between the process by which ethical decisions are made and the work that is done by this

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OVERALL GOALS OF INSPIRES PROGRAM

THE overall goals of the INSpires program are as follows:

- Stress adherence to core values
- Create a professional development network to address core values
- Provide a decision-making process to employees and heighten their awareness of the consequences of their actions
- Improve how employees treat and respect each other and the people they serve

For more information on the INSpires program and how to become involved, please contact Jimmie Jones, INSpires project manager, at Jimmie.Jones2@usdoj.gov or 202-514-7853.

INS, AFGE LOCAL 511 NEGOTIATE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

THE American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 511 and the INS recently concluded negotiations and implemented their first collective bargaining agreement. The AFGE Local 511, recertified in 1999, represents all professional employees in the INS, including attorneys, accountants, engineers, architects, librarians, and statisticians.



Commissioner James W. Ziglar and President of AFGE Local 511 Linda Church signing the bargaining unit contract.

"Both union and management representatives are gratified to have a collective bargaining agreement in place and that it took such a relatively short time to reach agreement on this first contract," said Headquarters Chief of Labor and Employee Relations Robert. S. Sherman. "Each side believes the agreement will bring consistency to the management of the professional workforce."

Commissioner James W. Ziglar and President of AFGE Local 511 Linda Church, signed the bargaining unit contract July 16 at Headquarters.

Over the course of the previous six months, management and union negotiators met in seven bargaining sessions to work out a collective bargaining agreement, Sherman said. The agreement sets procedures and processes for a number of subjects important to the bargaining unit.

Among other issues, the agreement establishes the procedures management will follow in making temporary assignments and details, authorizes both alternate work schedules and telecommuting, and provides grievance and arbitration procedures.

INSPIRES

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organization," she said. "It applies not only to our relationship to the people who we all come into contact through the course of our business, but also the relationships we have to each other within the organization."

Jones said one of the strengths of the INSpires program is that it is entirely voluntary and employee-driven. At the request of local INS offices, Jones and Director of Internal Audit John Chase conduct initial, one-day introductory seminars about the overall program, the importance of critical thinking and ethical decision making, and how these skills relate to core values.

Afterwards, INS offices make commitments to send selected personnel to a three-day Facilitators' Seminar. Once trained, the local facilitators assume ownership of the local program, remaining in contact with the INSpires program director at Headquarters and other facilitators within the INSpires network.

More than 6,000 INS employees have participated since the program started. Currently, more than 200 facilitators from 19 districts and sectors are responsible for facilitating small group discussions.

"Although participation in INSpires requires a resource and time commitment, many field managers have recognized the importance of the program to the successful accomplishment of their mission and have willingly embraced the INSpires program," Jones said. "These field leaders have recognized the importance of incorporating values-based discussion into the workplace. Their leadership is visible and goes a long way toward helping protect INS employees."

The new core values have been part of the program since February and the change has been met with an overwhelmingly positive response, according to the participants, such as Supervisory Board Patrol Agent Orlando Sanchez of the McAllen Sector.

"Through the course and the detailed exploration of PAIRS, it helped shed some light on the direction the service is headed," he said. "With this knowledge, I can help direct employees in the right direction and help clarify the core values, instead of the core values just being displayed with no explanation."

INS NEWS FROM *the Field*

TUCSON SECTOR TAKES DELIVERY OF FIRST NEW GENERATION BORDER PATROL CHOPPER

THE first of the new generation of Border Patrol helicopters—with state-of-the-art features such as air-to-ground radioless communications and night-vision equipment to track people without lights—arrived in the Tucson Sector July 22.

Tucson was the first sector to receive one of the 13 AStar B3 helicopters the Border Patrol purchased using funding set aside by Congress for heightened security and counterterrorism. The Yuma and El Centro Sectors are next in line to receive new aircraft.

Technological enhancements

With its powerful engine and extraordinary range, this latest model AStar can fly in extreme conditions that would ground less advanced helicopters. In addition, the new AStar boasts an array of technological enhancements, including night-vision capability and an on-board global positioning system that will heighten the Border



Inside the cockpit, the AStar features state-of-the-art technology, including an on-board satellite tracking system and night-vision capability.

Patrol's ability to detect and deter illegal crossings from the air.

"I never thought I could love flying more than I do, but this new aircraft makes it a real joy," said Bruce Dawson, assistant chief of Border Patrol flight operations in El Paso.

The Border Patrol worked closely with American Eurocopter, the AStar's manufacturer, to develop an aircraft that would meet the unique demands of the agency's mission. That includes an infrared searchlight that allows agents to observe activity on the ground at night without physically lighting up an area and giving away their position. Another advance, an on-board satellite tracking system, enables agents on the ground to quickly zero in on illegal activity observed from the air.



Tucson Sector Chief Patrol Agent David Aguilar speaks to the media about the AStar B3 helicopter

"Helicopters are crucial to our mission," said Tucson Sector Chief Patrol Agent David Aguilar, "and this newest addition to our fleet offers features that will enable us to carry out our duties more effectively while at the same time providing greater safety for our agents."

One of those safety breakthroughs is crash-survivable seats for the pilot and co-pilot. The seats, which absorb the shock of impact, greatly reduce the likelihood of death or injury if the helicopter crashes or experiences a hard landing.

Immediate proof of worth

Just days after arriving in Arizona, the new AStar proved its worth. On one of its first training flights, the AStar crew spotted a group of nine undocumented migrants trudging through a desolate stretch of desert. The remoteness of the site made it virtually impossible for agents on the ground to reach, so the crew of the AStar and an accompanying Huey transported the migrants to a prearranged pick-up point where agents took them into custody.

"Had the AStar not been on the scene, there is a very real possibility that the undocumented migrants might have succumbed to the heat and become another grim statistic," Agent David Bemiller said.

BALTIMORE

Continued from page 8

maintains its longstanding tradition of welcoming those who come to our shores legally.”

Applications for citizenship received by the INS have increased 60 percent so far this year, according to Becraft. In the previous eight years, from 1993 to 2001, the INS received 7.5 million applications for citizenship, which is nearly 1 million more applications than were received in the prior 40 years combined.

Becraft thanked Baltimore District employees and the monument’s National Park Service staff for organizing “this wonderful ceremony.” Baltimore District Director Louis D. Crocetti Jr., introduced Becraft and led the citizenship candidates through the Oath of Allegiance. Assistant District Director William P. Donohue handled the presentation of candidates and Chris Bentley, the district’s community relations officer, served as master of ceremonies.

Laura Joss, the superintendent of the Fort McHenry National Monument, welcomed her guests and sketched the site’s often-overlooked role in U.S. immigration history.

Nearly 2 million immigrants from Europe first set foot on U.S. soil at the former Locus Point Immigration Station, which operated for about 75



Baltimore District Director Louis Crocetti Jr., leads the new citizens in reciting the Oath of Allegiance, as the super-sized U.S. flag wafts over Fort McHenry.

years on a site adjacent to Fort McHenry. Built by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and a German steamship line following the American Civil War, the Locus Point station was converted to defense purposes during World War I.

Drawing a connection between immigration of a century ago and the current naturalization ceremony, she told the new citizens: “You’re now a part of Fort McHenry’s rich history.”



A group of youngsters playing violins in celebration of their own cultural heritage.

BAUTISTA

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accordion music to a bagpipe serenade and a group of youngsters playing violins. It was a chance for people from the area to celebrate their own cultural heritage.

A local teacher and accomplished singer, Sharon Johnson, emceed the event, which featured Congressman Farr. “Each new immigrant adds depth to our sense of purpose and the promise of new creativity,” Farr proclaimed.

Also speaking was Luis Valdez, founder of Teatro Campesino, who reflected on his family’s journey to the United States.

“It took a lot of suffering,” he said. “It took a lot of belief in our own basic dignity.”

As the highlight of the event, U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Marilyn Morgan led 209 new citizens, including 20 children, through the oath.

“There was so much violence in my homeland,” said new citizen Shahrokh Shahrokhi, an Iranian immigrant, after the ceremony ended. “I thought the atmosphere (in the United States) would heal my wounded soul.”

GOOD NEWS INSide



Pictured from left to right are Customs Special Agent Robert Petrick, Koochiching County Sheriff Duane Nelson, Customs Inspector Craig Williams, former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Immigration Examiner Karyn Shold, Senior Patrol Agent Derek Mason, and Agent Mark Bane. The people to the far left and right of the photo are members of the Israeli security detail.

AGENTS PROTECT FORMER ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER

While flying from Paris, France, to Colorado July 29, former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and his entourage landed at the Falls International Airport in International Falls, Minn., for fuel and for inbound inspections. Border Patrol and local authorities were called to augment security for his short visit.

YUMA AGENT EARNS TOP HONOR IN STATE

American Legion Post 35 of Chandler, Ariz., presented Senior Patrol Agent **Paul A. Skaists** of the Yuma Sector the Grand Voiture Arizona Law Officer of the Year on July 12. In a May ceremony, he was named Yuma Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.



Senior Patrol Agent Paul A. Skaists (holding plaque) with Deputy Chief Patrol Agent Stephen Norman (left) and two representatives from the American Legion.

The recognition stemmed from his rescuing two toddlers Jan. 9. A bicyclist had spotted the 4-year-old brother and 3-year-old sister clinging to a rocky hillside near the Andrade, Calif., Port of Entry. The two were on the verge of falling 40 feet and were crying, afraid to move. The bicyclist told Skaist, who immediately called for rescue units, and then, realizing time was paramount, edged down the hill to rescue the boy.

While another agent who arrived on the scene took care of the boy, Skaists moved on to grab the 3-year-old girl, but the rocks on the ledge began to slide, and he too was unable to move. Other agents then used a tow strap to pull the two to safety. Skaist and the children were not injured during the ordeal.

"I rescued the children because I happened to be the officer on the scene," Skaists said. "Any agent would have done the same thing in a similar situation."

TWO \$1.2 MILLION SEIZURES STEM FROM JOINT EFFORT

Agents of the **Rio Grande City Border Patrol Station** acting on information received from the U.S. Customs Service seized 1,557 pounds of marijuana stashed on a small island located upriver from Salineño, Texas, July 10.

This seizure, valued at \$1.2 million, was the second marijuana seizure of this magnitude for the Rio Grande City Border Patrol Station and U. S. Customs that week. Two days earlier, the agencies' cooperative efforts through the Border Coordination Initiative (BCI) resulted in another seizure of 1,574 pounds of marijuana



Agents Robert Nunn (left) and Jason Kane next to their vehicle.

AGENTS RESCUE 3 CHILDREN LOST IN DESERT NEAR YUMA

Border Patrol agents from the Yuma Sector saved three children lost in the scorching desert southeast of Yuma, Ariz., July 28. Yuma County Sheriff's deputies called the Wellton Station to assist in locating the lost children, two 10-year-old boys and an 8-year-old girl. Using their search and rescue skills, agents first rescued the girl and then the two boys. All three children were treated for dehydration and returned home. Agents involved in the ground operation were Supervisory Patrol Agent **Jerry Wofford** along with Agents **Jason Kane** and **Robert Nunn**. Sector Pilot **Stuart Goodrich** played a role from above.

JACKSON HONORED AS TECHNOLOGY ALL-STAR

Senior Special Agent **Melody Jackson** of the Headquarters Office of International Affairs Overseas Enforcement Branch received a 2002 Women of Color Government and Defense Technology All-Star award July 18. Presenting the award was the Honorable Carol Moseley-Braun, former U.S. Senator from Illinois and former ambassador to New Zealand.



Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Sims (left) and David Gappa (right) pose with Agent Kyle Kennedy (center)

Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Sims (left) congratulates Agent Bernardo Madrid (center) and Assistant U.S. Attorney David Gappa (right) looks on.



AGENTS EARNS KUDOS FROM U.S. ATTORNEY'S

Bakersfield Special Agents **Kyle Kennedy** and **Bernardo Madrid** received plaques July 19 recognizing their significant contributions and outstanding efforts in presenting criminal cases to the U.S. Attorney's Office (Eastern District of California).

When Assistant U.S. Attorneys Bill Sims and David Gappa presented the plaques, they specifically noted that the agents' work product continually reflects their dedication and attention to detail when presenting cases for prosecution.

FALFURRIAS AGENTS SEIZE \$8.4 MILLION OF COCAINE

Agents of the **Falfurrias, Texas, Border Patrol Station** seized 264.3 pounds of cocaine concealed in a false compartment of a pick-up truck July 12.

Border Patrol K-9 "Terry II" alerted positively to the bed of the truck at a traffic checkpoint located south of Falfurrias, Texas. Further inspection revealed a secret compartment in the truck's bed containing 94 bundles, averaging 2.8 pounds each. The cocaine is valued at \$8.5 million.

To get a blurb and photo published in **Communiqué's** "INSide" column, e-mail it to ins@casals.com or mail it to **Communiqué**, 1199 North Fairfax Street, Third Floor, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.